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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
SHOZO HATTORI, et al. )  
Application No.: 09/543,331 )  
Filed: April 5, 2000 )  
For: INK ABSORBENT, INK TANK, )  
INK JET CARTRIDGE, :  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING )  
INK ABSORBENT, AND :  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING )  
INK TANK : September 7, 2000



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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to European 709,211, a copy of which is enclosed and which is listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

This reference was cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed. The Examiner is referred to the European Search Report for an explanation of relevance of this reference.

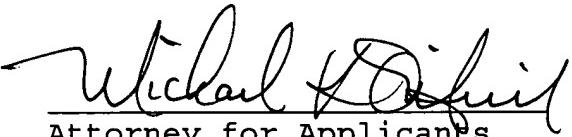
Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this

Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3).

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael J. Difesa  
Attorney for Applicants

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